

Town Manager
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Town Hall Update



The Town Manager's Office continues to be located on the 2nd floor of the Police Department at 53 Main Street. We will be moving to the Millennium Building at 23 Depot Street this fall. More information on the move schedule and a full directory of relocated town departments are available online.

Special Town Meeting

will be held on
Monday, October 20,
2008, 7:30 PM at the
Abbot Elementary
School.

Dear Westford Residents

As part of my commitment to increase the communication between the town departments and the residents of Westford, we are starting a monthly Town Manager Newsletter which will be posted to www.westfordma.gov and sent via email to anyone who subscribes to our website's Public Notices. We will attempt to pass along timely updates about town-wide events and issues. Please [email](#) me with any suggestions regarding our format or material of interest.

Some recent issues include addressing the perchlorate situation. The town hired Comprehensive Environmental, Inc. who is working with the residents living in the area of contamination and coordinating Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) required testing, monitoring and reporting. The firm is also helping the town assess the overall situation and negotiate the costs of addressing this unfortunate occurrence with the firm responsible for the contamination. We

have provided bottled water to affected residents as a temporary measure and are currently developing an action plan to ensure residents are not being subjected to drinking water with levels of perchlorate greater than the standards set by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The fall town meeting warrant contains an article which will provide for the installation of a 12 inch water main to connect the affected properties to the town's public water supply. The town is also developing plans to prevent any future related issues by eliminating the perchlorate hazard at the source. Richard Cote of CEI will present an update to the selectmen at their September 16th meeting.

The Permanent Town Building Committee has been assisting Graham and Meus Architects in the preparation and recommendation of a design for the Senior Center expansion. The selectmen also hired Kaffee Kang of Kang Associates, Inc to conduct a structural analysis of the

Town Hall and, in addition, conduct a feasibility study of the Town Hall and other municipal and commercial buildings, to present a recommendation for future Town Hall offices. The Permanent Town Building Committee along with the architects will present their findings and designs on both projects to the Board of Selectmen at their September 16th meeting.

Our Special Town Meeting will be held on Monday, October 20, 2008, 7:30pm at the Abbot Elementary School. I urge all residents to attend and I look forward to participating in my first Westford town meeting.



Sincerely,
[Jodi Ross](#)
[Town Manager](#)



Fire Safety Message

In 2007, there were 880 fire incidents in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that involved chimneys, fireplaces, and woodstoves, these fires were responsible for 1 civilian death, 3 civilian injuries, 13 firefighter injuries, and resulted in \$3.3 million dollars in property losses. These incidents make up 29% of all fires linked to heating systems.

Before purchasing a wood or coal burning stove be sure it has been approved by Underwriter's Laboratory or another recognized testing

laboratory. Installation of wood or coal stoves requires a building permit prior to installation. They must be inspected by the local building inspector prior to their initial use. Have your chimney and flue inspected by a qualified mason or chimney sweep before each heating season. Most chimney fires occur due to a build-up of creosote, a tarry by-product of burning wood.

Safety Tips:

Ashes from the stove or fireplace should be shoveled into a metal receptacle with a lid,

placed outside away from any buildings.

Do not place ashes into a paper bag or cardboard box, ashes and embers can stay hot for days and ignite combustibles.

Install and maintain smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, it is the law.

Test alarms regularly and change the batteries when we change the clocks.

Donald R. Parsons
Fire Prevention Officer



"Test alarms regularly and change the batteries when we change the clocks."

Westford Police Project Lifesaver

The Westford Police Department is initiating Project Lifesaver in conjunction with the Council on Aging and several residents in Town.

For those not familiar with this, it is a wrist watch type device that is fitted on a person and transmits a signal to a device controlled by the Police Department. It assists the Police in finding a person who has wandered off.

This is beneficial for

families who have autistic children, for the elderly or for families who have someone with a medical condition who tends to unknowingly wander off.

The Police Department is looking for Donations to get the program off the ground and running.

Checks can be made out to Project Lifesaver, care of the Westford Police Department, 53 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886

We have applied for grants to offset the cost of this project.

Anyone wanting more information can contact Capt. Victor Neal at 978.692.2161 or vneal@westfordma.gov or visit the Project Lifesaver website at www.projectlifesaver.org

Start up costs run between \$6,500.00 and \$7,500.00.



For more information or to make a donation, contact Capt. Victor Neal at 978.692.2161 or vneal@westfordma.gov



Westford Health Department Notices

National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month. To assist with preparing the community for emergencies, the Health Department has purchased emergency supplies in bulk and is offering a 72 emergency kit to residents for \$50.

Come assemble your kit on Sept 17th at 6 P.M. at the Abbot School. Hear about the steps which should be taken to prepare your family for any natural or man-made disaster.

Call 978.692.5509 for more information. Checks made out to the Town of Westford must be received at the Health Department by Sept 10th.

Residents can also help the community by signing up for the Upper Merrimack Valley MRC, a volunteer response team based out of the Westford Health Department. This program falls under the Office of the Surgeon General and is part of a national program with over 780 units across the nation. Medical and non – medical volunteers are welcome.

Members are trained and pre-credentialed and assist with public health emergencies, mass disasters and provide community service during deployments.

To find out more information about the unit, visit our web site at www.umvmrc.org or contact our Coordinator at 978.399.2549.

Mosquito and Tick-Borne Illness

As fall approaches and outdoor activities and recreational sports increase, we encourage families to continue to take precautions to prevent tick and mosquito borne illness.

The peak time for exposure to West Nile Virus and Lyme disease extends through the fall. For additional information, visit westfordma.gov/boh or call the Health department at 978.692.5509 or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization, 617.983.6800 or www.mass.gov/dph.

Flu/Pneumonia Clinics:

Flu season is fast approaching. The following are the dates and times for the town flu/pneumonia clinics:

Date: October 23rd
Time: 12:30pm-3:30pm
Franco American Club

Date: October 27th
Time: 11:00am-2:00pm
Roudenbush Community Center

Date: November 5th
Time: 6:00pm.-8:00pm
Millennium School

Date: November 18th
Time: 6:00pm.-8:00pm
Police Department

Date: December 2nd
Time: 11:00am-1:00pm
J.V. Fletcher Library



To find out more information about the Upper Merrimack Valley MRC, visit our web site www.umvmrc.org or contact our Coordinator at 978.399.2549.



Water Department Ultimate Green Home & Lawn

Tuesday, 9/16/08,
7:00pm

Roudenbush Community
Center, 65 Main Street

Pre-register at
www.roudenbush.org

Learn everything you
need to know about
making your home
healthier & more energy
efficient.

Cut your heating, cooling
& energy bills by 30 –
50%!

Hear about exciting solar
solutions.

Grow a very low
maintenance, lush green
lawn! Plus lawn tips used
by the RED SOX at
Fenway Park.

Presented by Jackson
Madnick, environmental
expert & recipient of the
AltWheels 2007 "Regional
(Environmental) Hero
Award" & Green Energy
consultant Bart Berkowitz
of "Save Your Energy"



Westford Public Schools Fuel for Friends

Last year Bill Olsen,
School Superintendent,
initiated a "Fuel for
Friends" donation drive in
our school system.

Through his efforts,
approximately \$1,500 was
collected from our school
staff which was donated to
the Fuel Assistance
Program administered by
Joanne Sheehan at the
Senior Center.

This year Superintendent
Olsen will begin the
donation drive in early
October with a goal of
raising \$2,000.



GIS Department: Where is Your House Number?

*"It is recommended that
owners post their
address using reflective
numbers, at least 3
inches tall that are
visible from the street."*

Has a delivery person
ever had trouble finding
your house? Imagine if it
were an EMT or public
safety official.

Minutes spent looking for
a house number can be
the difference between life
and death in some
instances.

Properly displaying your
house number is critical to
ensuring that your home
can be quickly accessed
during emergency
situations.

It is recommended that
owners post their address
using reflective numbers,
at least 3 inches tall that
are visible from the street.

Please go to
www.westfordma.gov/gis
to find out more
information.





Serving Westford's Seniors

The Mission of the Council on Aging is to promote physical, emotional and economic well being of older adults and to promote their participation in all aspects of community life.

A monthly newsletter is available on line at www.westfordma.gov/coa.

We are located at the Cameron Senior Center in Forge Village. Our hours of operation are Monday thru Friday 8am – 4pm and Thursday evening 6:30 – 9:30pm.

There are presently 3,300 residents in our community that are sixty years of age or older.

If you are not in need of our services at this time you may be able to assist us as a volunteer. Contact us at 978.692.5523 to request a volunteer application and COR1 (criminal background check) form. Last year we benefited from 8,280 volunteer hours from 142 individuals. This translates into an estimated savings of \$67,150 for the Town.

Twenty seven percent of the services we provided were for residents age 75 and older while 5% of the individuals were non-elder under the age of 60.

The Council on Aging recorded the following individual unduplicated services provided in FY'2008:

- **14** Friendly Visitors
- **94** durable medical equipment loans
- **318** transportation totaling 8,000 trips
- **30** minor home repairs
- **205** food pantry
- **750** provided with advocacy and case management
- **50** health benefits counseling (SHINE)
- **125** units of companion/respite care
- **16** support group members
- **45** legal services
- **79** financial management assistance
- **15** food shopping assistance
- **33** Adult Supportive Day Program
- **87** health screening
- **132** fitness/exercise programs
- **75** congregate meals
- **93** home delivered meals
- **659** cultural events
- **83** community education

Please stop by anytime and introduce yourself. It is a pleasure to provide these services for you.



Cameron Senior Center
20 Pleasant Street
978-692-5523

"Contact us at 978.692.5523 to request a volunteer application..."

"A monthly newsletter is available on line at www.westfordma.gov/coa."

Tech Updates

Watch for a new "Spotlight on Westford" episode this month on Westford CAT Channel 10 featuring the Town Clerk. A current schedule is online at www.westfordcat.org.

This is the first episode since Town Hall was closed and is packed with useful information.

As always, make sure to visit www.westfordma.gov to stay current with your local town government.

Coming soon Online:

More Access to our new Document Management System.

Improved Bill Payments

BOH Permits...

